

Marginal Column
By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

CIVILIAN eyes in Israel have been so firmly focused on the south and on the constant danger of war with Egypt that news of a major action in the north came as a double shock. A first reaction that it was just as well that the Israeli Army at least had eyes in the back of its head was mixed with a certain feeling that surely there has always been shooting on Lake Kinneret. Had the shooting been worse than usual lately, but overlooked in the pressure of events on the Egyptian border?

THERE have indeed been periods when shooting at the Syrian shore was, if not more accurate and claimed more victims, for though some bullet may reach its mark and another may fail to do so, the intention with which it is fired is always the same. The difference is not so much in the other side, as in Israel's present determination that the Armistice Agreements shall no longer be totally one-sided. You would not attempt to play even a game with the rules different for the two sides, and border warfare is not a game. The reason for sharp retaliation this year where there was none last year is that neither the U.N. nor any other outside factor has been able to stop Syria shooting on the lake.

BOATS do not go out on treacherous Lake Kinneret in winter for pleasure. They go out in groups of four and five to place and haul in huge nets into which the fish are attracted by powerful lights. The lights make the fishermen plurally easy targets, and when shooting starts he has no choice but to cut the nets and make for home. During last season the Syrian gunboats shot down a boat of about 11,000,000 in this way, a burden the industry cannot bear. If there was to be a choice between removing the Syrian gunposts from the shore and giving up fishing the lake, it may perhaps be understood that an independent country would not defend its own citizens' rights before it weighs the possible heavy loss to the economy.

ISRAEL announced her decision to enforce the Armistice Agreements, but not to abrogate them, and accordingly withdrew from Syria's border. She has declared that they had forced the Israeli Army to retreat, and had caused a hundred casualties. "Ambulances were sent to the shore and to the lake," said a Damascus spokesman. But even this will be of little comfort to the Syrian command, who knows that his force was outwitted and outfought and his officers caught playing cards. It is likely that the Syrian victory will remain the extent of the Egyptian military aid to Egypt's new ally, Syria. Short of the weekly event of a full-scale Syrian retaliation was on Israel. Damascus will scarcely be able to invoke Egyptian military help. It is possible, in consequence, that this sharp warning blow may also have knocked some of the gilt off this piece of gingerbread and make the tentative pact with Egypt look to some Syrians like an added danger rather than a protective device. Even wavering Jordan may decide to seek shelter on the far side of the fence from Egypt after all.

IN a few months' time work must be resumed on the Jordan Canal where it was stopped two years ago at the request of the U.N. and in the hope that Syria would in time let reason prevail and take part in some agreed distribution of the Jordan waters. When the Johnston Plan was close to acceptance not long ago, it was finally rejected through Syrian agitation in Egypt and pressure in Jordan. For Israel, both water from the Jordan and fish from the Kinneret are not only a necessity but almost a matter of life and death. The right to peace in Israeli territory is not a political gambit like Syrian pretensions in the demilitarized zone. If our neighbors were half as concerned with bringing water to dry fields and catching fish to feed people as Israel is, we could have this peace tomorrow.

IRAQ BUDGET UP
BAGHDAD, Monday (Reuters). — The Iraqi Finance Minister, Dia Jafar, today submitted a record budget for 1956 estimating government expenditure at 65,185,923 dinars — an increase of 12m. dinars over the current budget.

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Both Sides Nibbling At Eden Plan—Macmillan

LONDON, Monday (Reuters). — Foreign Secretary Harold Macmillan declared at the opening of the Commons debate on the Middle East today that both Israel and Arab leaders were nibbling at the recent proposal for mutual concessions made recently by Sir Anthony Eden. Speaking in a packed chamber, with world ambassadors listening intently, the Secretary defended the Prime Minister's speech against the Labour opposition's criticism that it demands one-sided concessions by Israel.

Mr. Macmillan said that "serious Arab leaders" have begun to realize that they must live with Israel, and that Israel is making more careful consideration of what Sir Anthony said about making some sacrifice. He pointed out that the Russians will try to block any settlement and keep alive the hatreds in the region, and expressed doubt that a new security guarantee to Israel, coming after a long list of declarations and guarantees already given, would settle the problem. It would be foolish of the West to be asked to start an arms race by sending arms to Israel to balance the Soviet bloc shipments to Egypt. Mr. Macmillan said he was not convinced that the U.N. was the right machinery now to turn the Palestine truce into a peace.

Mr. Winston Churchill attended the debate in one of his now infrequent visits to the House, the third since he resigned. **Policy Under Failure**
Mr. Herbert Morrison, former Labour Foreign Secretary and candidate for the party's leadership, said that Mr. Macmillan's statement was a "disaster" and that the Government's "policy" regarding its Middle East policy, he accused the Government of "isolating" Israel and moving her to the "outer fringes" of the world. He said that the Government's policy was to "isolate" Israel and move her to the "outer fringes" of the world.

Mr. Morrison said it was natural for Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to think Sir Anthony called for substantial concessions by Israel, as the Goldhamer speech had been vague. But he pointed out that Israel is still willing to consider minor border adjustments, which he termed "sensible" on her part. At one point he referred to a speech by Sir Winston Churchill on May 11, 1953, that Israel would never be placed at an unfair disadvantage regarding the supply of arms to the Government of the United Kingdom. He said that the Government did not want to see a "friendly" Israel, but did not want to see a "friendly" Israel.

U.N. Urges Study Of Ike, Bulganin Plans
UNITED NATIONS, Monday (UPI). — The U.N. Political Committee today approved a Western resolution giving top priority to President Eisenhower's "open skies" inspection plan in disarmament talks. The resolution calls upon the five major atomic powers, meeting as a subcommittee of the U.N. Disarmament Commission, also to consider the plan submitted by the Soviet Premier, Marshal Nikolai Bulganin.

Goldmann Reports To Agency Executive
Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, surveyed the activities of the Zionist Organization in the U.S. and its special problems at a meeting of the Executive in Jerusalem yesterday. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Executive, Mr. Ben-Zion Meir, who outlined the Jewish Agency's role in the Zionist movement. He said that the Jewish Agency was not only a necessity but almost a matter of life and death. The right to peace in Israeli territory is not a political gambit like Syrian pretensions in the demilitarized zone. If our neighbors were half as concerned with bringing water to dry fields and catching fish to feed people as Israel is, we could have this peace tomorrow.

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Templer Awaiting Jordan Reply On Baghdad Alliance

Gen. Sir Gerald Templer, Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, yesterday again postponed his departure from Amman, to await a final Jordan reply on his proposals for a Baghdad pact. The Arab News Agency reported. He was to leave today.

Reuters yesterday quoted reliable Amman sources as stating that Gen. Templer had offered to exchange for Jordan's participation in the Baghdad pact (METO). The Jordan Cabinet, meanwhile, had an intensive round of discussions yesterday. After the first session, lasting four hours in the morning, the Ministers left for King Hussein's Palace, where they conferred for three hours in the afternoon.

Arabs Warn Dulles Of Strained Relations
WASHINGTON, Monday (Reuters). — Eight Arab diplomatic representatives today jointly warned Secretary of State John Foster Dulles that the activities of Israel in the Middle East and of Zionist groups in the U.S. were causing strained Arab-American relations. The envoys, who conferred for an hour with the Secretary, were the Ambassadors of Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, and the Charge d'Affaires of the Yemen.

The Iraqi Ambassador, Musa Shabandar, acting as spokesman, told reporters that the Arab nations did not want to interfere in Israel's political situation, but they had told Mr. Dulles how they felt about such activity and how, if it continued, it would affect future relations between the Arab states and the U.S. He said Mr. Dulles had told them that the U.S. had a policy of "friendly impartiality" in the Middle East, but that the Arab states felt that the U.S. was not impartial.

Goodhart: Refugees Must Settle Where They Are
OSLO, Monday (Reuters). — Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said in his Nobel Peace Prize lecture today that most refugees would have to look for integration in their countries of present residence. Dr. Goedhart, who on Saturday received the 1954 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said that there were only three ways of solving refugee problems: by voluntary repatriation, resettlement overseas, and integration either in the country of present residence or in combination with intra-European migration.

SUDAN IRKED BY ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SNUB
KHARTOUM, Monday (Reuters). — The Government has protested to Britain and Egypt that it was not consulted when these two countries agreed on the procedure for Sudan's self-determination. On December 3, Britain and Egypt, as condominium powers, signed an agreement in Cairo providing for the Sudan to vote in a plebiscite to decide whether the territory should become an independent state or have a union with Egypt. In Cairo today, the British Ambassador, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, conferred with Premier Abdul Nasser on "current affairs, including the Sudan." In London, the Foreign Office announced today that Sir Alexander Knox

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50 Syrians Killed, 30 Captured As Army Action Clears Kinneret Shore

Peace in Galilee is Up to Syria
Israel Loses 6 Dead, 10 Wounded

Syrians Rebuilding Wrecked Positions
EIN GEV, Monday. — Ein Gev settlers this morning observed Syrian forces returning to the positions which were blown up by an Israeli force last night. They began rebuilding their destroyed posts and dug communication trenches. They also moved up cannon and mortars and tested the range with machine-gun fire. The settlement was calm today after a wakeful night. The children and infants were taken to shelters yesterday. The older children were in high spirits this morning when the full news of the successful operation became known. Because of the sleepless night, only the most essential work, including the wounded, was done this morning. Reinforcements arrived from Jordan Valley settlements to help the tired men. The settlers wistfully recalled today that they were to have held their traditional Hanukkah celebration last night.

Entire Shore Israel Territory
"No part of the lake shore belongs to Syria," he stressed, nor any part of the lake itself. Yet Syria has secured and maintained strong military positions in her territory on the hills overlooking Lake Kinneret. Syrian troops occupying these positions have regularly shelled the unarmed Israeli-fishing fleet as soon as it has put out its nets. The spokesman reiterated Israel's desire to make the lake safe for the fishermen who are entitled to the protection of the Government under all circumstances, and particularly when they come under enemy attack. Israel cannot allow the Syrian Army to continue its aggression against her fishermen from the cover of its fortified positions on the ridges and slopes dominating Lake Kinneret.

Majority of Prisoners Regular Soldiers
TIBERIAS, Monday. — During the night, 23 Syrian prisoners were taken to a settlement. The majority were regular soldiers. They were given food to eat and later moved on. Some of the wounded were given first aid before being taken to hospital. The booty included a six-pounder French machinegun and rifles. By 5 a.m., all our forces had been withdrawn in a smooth operation.

Soldier Escorts Syrian Woman, Child Home
Orders were to spare women and children during the operation, but this sometimes made for difficulties. Jews were the case of a woman and child who were frightened into the field by the appearance of a soldier. It took some diplomatic persuasion to assure the woman that she would be much better off if she returned to her village — to which she was carefully escorted by the armed Israeli.

Kinneret Clash Worries French Officials
PARIS, Monday (Reuters). — Official circles here are expressing anxiety about the situation in the Middle East following the Israeli-Syrian border clash yesterday. They refused to take sides about the real responsibility of either party for the incidents near Lake Kinneret, but deplored Israel's action against Syria, which was closely linked to France by bonds of friendship. **CAIRO'S GIFT TO SYRIAN ARMS FUND**
Egypt has contributed £250,000 to the Syrian arms fund which now stands at £24m, "El Jihad" reported yesterday.

NOTORIOUS INFILTRATOR JAILED IN JORDAN
Abd Ibn Mohammed Abu Arar, a notorious Jordan infiltrator and smuggler, was detained in Jordan this week when returning from Israel, according to the City daily, "El Jihad." He was sentenced to three years in jail by the Hebron District Commissioner.



Kinneret Action Is Lauded in Knesset
Sunday night's action against Syrian forces was mentioned in the Knesset yesterday during the concluding speeches in the budget debate. The first speaker of the day, Mr. Ben-Zion Meir (Poalei Agudat Yisrael) lauded the action of our troops and said that if Syria wished to be Israel's enemy, as of old, Israel would be able to deal with her. Israel did not want war, but any infringement of her boundaries would be met with a strong response. Mr. Menachem Begin (Herut), said that if there was any consolation for the relatives of the men who died in the action it was that they had not fallen as victims of a slaughter but had given their lives in an heroic battle.

Arms Too Late
He declared that even if the U.S. agreed to supply arms to Israel, it would probably take a year before we received them. But now, before Egypt received her MIGs and Stalin tanks, we had the chance to crush her. He concluded with an appeal to France to halt arms shipments to "our enemies, who are your enemies as well." Mr. Emil Habibi (Communist) stated that some of the speeches he had heard reminded him of similar speeches addressed to the "Palestine Arabs in 1947. They had been warned that if they did not start a war against the Jews, they would be destroyed. And that those who were in favour of such a war were traitors.

The Six Who Fell
The six Israelis who fell in the attack on the Syrian positions on Sunday night are: Seren Yitzhak Ben-Menahem, 24, of Ramatayim; Raphael Yair, 19, Jerusalem; Yoram Katz, 19, Jerusalem; Avraham Kabiri, 20, Kfar Ono; Shalom Kimmel (Seikowitz), 18, Moshav Mero Betar; and Avraham Shababo, 19, Haifa. Seren Ben-Menahem will be buried at 2 p.m. today at Ramatayim. The funeral of Yair and Katz will take place at 1:30 this afternoon at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery, Jerusalem.

Maltese May Sit In House of Commons
LONDON, Monday (Reuters). — A report by leading politicians of all parties will recommend this week that Malta should become the first colony to have seats in the Commons, usually well-informed political sources said today.

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